

IN THE CLAIMS :

35. A recombinant BLNK protein, comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about 95% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

36. The recombinant BLNK protein according to Claim 35, wherein said BLNK protein comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

37.(amended) The recombinant BLNK protein according to Claim 35, wherein said BLNK protein binds to a protein selected from the group consisting of Grb2, PLC γ , Vav, and Nck.

38. The recombinant BLNK protein according to Claim 35 or 37, wherein said BLNK protein comprises an amino acid sequence which lacks at least one tyrosine phosphorylation site corresponding to a tyrosine phosphorylation site selected from the group consisting of Tyr71, Tyr83, Tyr95 , Tyr177 and Tyr187 in SEQ ID NO:1.

39. A recombinant BLNK protein, wherein said BLNK protein comprises an amino acid sequence which is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence having at least about 95% identity to the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

40. The recombinant BLNK protein according to Claim 39, wherein said BLNK protein comprises an amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

41.(amended) The recombinant BLNK protein according to Claim 39, wherein said BLNK protein binds to a protein selected from the group consisting of Grb2, PLC γ , Vav, and Nck.

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cal 42. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the BLNK protein according to any one of Claims 35 to 41.

43. An antibody, which will bind to the BLNK protein according to any one of Claims 35 to 41.

44.(amended) A method for screening for a bioactive agent which binds to a BLNK protein, comprising:

a) combining a BLNK protein and a candidate bioactive agent; and

b) determining the binding of said candidate bioactive agent to said BLNK protein;

wherein said BLNK protein comprises an amino acid sequence having at least about 95% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and binds to a protein selected from the group consisting of Grb2, PLC γ , Vav, and Nck in the absence of said candidate bioactive agent.

45.(amended) A method for screening for a bioactive agent which modulates the activity of a BLNK protein, comprising:

a) combining a BLNK protein, a candidate bioactive agent, and a BLNK binding partner selected from the group consisting of Grb2, PLC γ , Vav, and Nck; and

b) determining the binding of said BLNK protein to said BLNK binding partner;

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cont.
wherein said BLNK protein comprises an amino acid sequence having at least about 95% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said BLNK protein [will bind] binds to said BLNK binding partner in the absence of a candidate bioactive agent, and wherein a decrease in the binding of said BLNK protein to said BLNK binding partner in the presence of said candidate bioactive agent indicates that said candidate bioactive agent is which modulates the activity of a BLNK protein.
